

## **Message from the Chief**

### **Chief's Memo – May 15, 2006**

#### ***Governor's May Revise Good News for CDF***

The Governor's May Revise of the 2006/2007 Budget was released last Friday. In his message to the legislature Governor Schwarzenegger remarked that "two years ago, California faced a \$22 billion fiscal crisis. California is now on the road to both economic recovery and fiscal stability." The Governor balanced the budget without raising taxes and record revenues are flowing into the State's treasury. Work continues to eliminate the structural budget deficit, including in the CDF budget. But thanks to our renewed fiscal strength we can address today's needs as well as plan for the kind of California we want to leave for our children.



In the Governor's budget for 2006-2007, he proposes we build upon the fiscal responsibility of the two previous years while making significant investments in education, transportation, healthcare, public safety and the environment.

The May Revise to the Governor's 2006-07 Budget includes new changes to the budget for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). Overall, CDF is proposed to receive \$32.1 million in additional expenditure authority (\$23.1 million General Fund) beginning 2006-07.

The next step will be the presentation of the May Revise to the Legislature. The Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees will begin marathon hearings to close out their respective calendars and agendas in anticipation of Conference Committee. The Conference Committee will then begin in the first week of June 2006 to arrive at agreement between the two legislative houses on all budget differences between the respective subcommittees.

The 2006-07 May Revise includes the following augmentations proposed for the CDF Budget:

- \$7 million General Fund is included to address cost escalation in Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance for CDF.
- \$5 million General Fund and 32.7 Personnel Years are proposed to accelerate the hiring and training of fire protection employees. The request is made on a limited-term basis to address the current surge of retirements occurring in CDF and the related hiring of new employees. This staffing level will increase by 6.0 Personnel Years the following fiscal year.

- \$9 million in Special Fund expenditure authority and 19.0 Personnel Years are proposed to expand the Forest Resources Improvement Fund (FRIF) program and its partial restoration to historical levels. The restored FRIF program will have impacts on air quality, water quality, ecosystem health, and resource management. Areas of resource allocation will include the State Nursery and Seed Bank Program, the Forestry Assistance Program, the CA Forest Improvement Program, the Pest Management Program, the Fire and Resource Assessment Program, and the Urban Forestry Program.

These augmentations are in addition to CDF's proposed budget in the 2006-07 Governor's Budget displayed below:

The following table presents total proposed budget year positions and expenditures for each budgeted program area as of January 10, 2006. These expenditures include all funding sources that support the state agency's programs.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Proposed 2006-07*</b>	
		<b>Positions</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
10	Office of the State Fire Marshal	90.7	14,725
11	Fire Protection	4,481.2	792,864
12	Resource Management	270.7	46,401
20.01	Administration	480.6	57,793
20.02	Distributed Administration	-	-57,363
Totals, Positions and Expenditures (excluding Infrastructure)		5,323.2	854,420
	Infrastructure Expenditures	-	206,577
Totals, Positions and All Expenditures		5,323.2	1,060,997

- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system replacement - The Budget includes one-time funding of \$932,000 from the State Emergency Telephone Number Account to continue payment for deliverables and to fund continued project management assistance and independent oversight resources for the duration of the project. 2006-07 is the final year of the replacement project.
- Illegal fireworks disposal - The Budget includes an increase in spending authority of \$500,000 for the State Fire Marshal Licensing and Certification Fund to fulfill the Department's mandate to dispose of illegal fireworks seized by state or local entities. The spending authority will allow the destruction of approximately 60 tons of illegal fireworks per year and prevent the indefinite stockpiling of large amounts of incendiary material.
- The Governor's budget proposes \$14.2 million General Fund for four continuing projects. This amount includes \$13.1 million to replace nine high-priority communication facilities and \$1.1 million to address critical infrastructure deficiencies at three emergency response facilities.

- The Governor's Budget proposes \$1.6 million General Fund for a new project to replace four high-priority communication facilities, which represent critical links in the State's emergency communications network. This project includes the construction of four new telecommunications towers, radio vaults, and related equipment.
- The Governor's Budget proposes \$413,000 General Fund for a new project to develop a safe and reliable water system for the Bear Valley Forest Fire Station and Helitack Base.
- The Governor's Budget proposes \$119.1 million lease-revenue bonds for five new projects. These projects include the relocation of the Southern Region Operations Headquarters, the construction of a new dormitory and renovation of the messhall at the Department's Academy, the replacement of two conservation camps and various forest fire station improvements in the North Region.

Positions By Program per the 2006-07 May Revise

Code	Program	Actual 2004-05	Estimated 2005-06	Proposed May Revise 2006-07
10	Office of the State Fire Marshal	79.0	84.9	90.7
11	Fire Protection	4,568.5	4,482.2	4,513.9
12	Resource Management	237.0	271.3	289.7
20.01	Administration	461.6	475.7	480.6
20.02	Distributed Administration	-	-	-
Total Positions (All Programs)		5,346.1	5,314.1	5,374.9

The Governor's May Revise budget does not include changes that may result from:

- Retirement issues associated with 3% at 50 retirement formulas
- Items in the current year's budget deficiency bill that is before the Legislature
- Funding to address the inversion issue

All of these items are still in some form of discussion with DPA, DOF, Agency, and/or the Governor's Office.

Regards,



Ruben Grijalva, Chief  
Director / State Fire Marshal (acting)

## **Communications**

CDF and Wildfire Awareness Week both got a big boost from Kevin Eubanks of the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Eubanks wore his CDF Nomex on the show Wednesday night and mentioned Wildfire Awareness Week to Jay Leno. Earlier that morning Eubanks attended a media event in Ventura County to kick off the week. A Type-3 engine from SLU was on display at the event, which was conducted jointly with Ventura County. CDF received substantial exposure from the event with Eubanks on several Los Angeles stations including numerous interviews on the Good Day LA show on Fox 11.

Communications also has shipped out handouts, flyers, brochures, and magnets to all the units as part of the "Why 100 feet?" campaign. Some movies that help explain defensible space have been added to the CDF web site.

## **Office of State Fire Marshal**

SFM personnel taught a Film Industry class in Auburn the week of May 8-12. Auburn officials learned what to expect when a movie crew comes to town and sets off explosives in their community, and the role the Office of State Fire Marshal plays in keeping the operation safe. The OSFM regularly conducts these classes around the state. The idea is to provide for public safety and a better understanding between movie crews and local officials. A side benefit is the promotion of the movie industry that is so valuable to our state's economy.

Last Saturday, an Inyo County Sheriff Deputy arrested a motorist who was transporting more than 400 pounds of illegal fireworks. The man will be charged with possession for sale of illegal fireworks. All illegal products were confiscated.

## **Resource Management**

Items of interest from the Board of Forestry meeting include:

- 1) The Board passed a motion to put out for review an extension of the rules for Threatened and Impaired watersheds. Three options will be considered in the extension for a sunset provision. Sunsets of one, two or three years will be considered.
- 2) The Board also authorized moving a draft road management plan process and concept to Resources Agency for its view on whether or not it would qualify as a functional equivalent program. The board hopes to create a regulatory framework under a functionally equivalent program that would allow Road Management Plans to be developed as stand alone documents. Activities under individual THPs as well as other activities could then be tiered to the approved Road Management Plan.
- 3) Considerable discussion was held at the joint Fish and Game Commission/Board meeting on the impact of retirements and the ability of CDF to deliver fire protection services.

- 4) Talks between National Marine Fisheries Service and DFG have resumed to determine if a solution can be found to the eight points raised by NMFS relative to issuance of a 4(d) rule.
- 5) The Professional Foresters Examining Committee reviewed the draft NTMP growth and yield guidelines document
- 6) The BOF has authorized the Jackson Demonstration State Forest ad hoc committee to work with staff and the Department to review public comments and Department responses. The Board has scheduled a field trip on JDSF for May 22 and will hold a workshop on policy issues in the second half of June.
- 7) The Office of Administrative Law is still reviewing a petition that makes claims of underground regulation in application of Osprey protection measures. The Department provided additional information this past week on the THP review process and review team responsibilities.
- 8) The management plan development for Boggs Demonstration State Forest continues. Key staff will meet later this week to discuss steps necessary to move the management plan to the BOF.
- 10) The Board approved the Resource Protection Committee review of the Department's Vegetation Treatment Programs.